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PERTINENT INFORMATION

Returned to the hotel where I was joined by Yehuda at 4:00 PM. Together we journeyed until we came to barricades beyond which dwelt the notorious, the infamous Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin El-Husseini (address: Selim St. Arab St. Helwan El-Zeitoun, Cairo). We were ushered behind a guarded gate into a barred courtyard where we met my former Palestinian acquaintance, the Secretary of the Arab Higher Committee, Haj A. Ghannouchy. He recalled my visit to Jerusalem in 1941 and expressed the hope that I would see the members of the Committee in Beirut next week. He is living there and will render all possible assistance.

The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin El-Husseini, was a tall, thin, old man with a face like an aged, weathered, and bleached by age, ready but smiling, a look-like part of finest quality, weathered.

He wore the traditional Arab dress, a white thobe and a black ghutra. He was a man of a face like an aged, weathered, and bleached by age, ready but smiling, a look-like part of finest quality, weathered.

Walking slowly, he led us into his study, entered Turkish (he spoke Arabic bitterly) and began to talk slowly and seemingly, with care. I found myself with my eyes glued to his face, thinking over and over, "Can this gentle religious be the terrible Mufti?" Of course, the Palestinian Christians have always contended that he was not only a nationalist and always a friend of minorities. But the overwhelming testimony of the people I trust most in the East is that here is a bad man. As the hour and a half passed on I became more and more aware of an air of intrigue behind the gentle old man's smile and soft words. Truly he is a character never to be forgotten.

"He thinks the Jews must be driven out. The Arabs must stay in Palestine until that day. It is his duty to the Arabs to drive them out. He is the day of Arab victory. Palestine must remain a core on the body of politics of the World. The Arabs must not let any other nation assume Palestine to be a colonial possession. It will be hard to do this, but the whole cause is more important than individual suffering. (He was living very comfortably!) All of this is a pretty gruesome idea, but from the Mufti's lips, spoken softly and deliberately, it seemed a holy cause. The man had a magnetic effect on his listeners, so much so that even as I sat there, I still wonder: is he good or bad? Was Richardson like this?"

CROSS REFERENCE FORM

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